

House Resolution 2038

By: Representatives Kidd of the 141st, Epps of the 140th, Amerson of the 9th, Reece of the 11th, Levitas of the 82nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the House Adult Mental Health and Disability Facilities Study Committee; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in the face of the recent economic downturn, the State of Georgia is considering
4 the release of mentally disabled patients from institutions in order to cut down on state costs;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, state run adult mental health treatment institutions and facilities are being
7 closed or are severely underfunded; and

8 WHEREAS, the closing of adult mental health treatment facilities and the release of these
9 patients will force families to make a difficult choice of finding costly private care for their
10 loved ones or leaving them untreated; and

11 WHEREAS, adults with mental health disabilities who are not treated pose a risk to
12 communities, families, and the patients themselves; and

13 WHEREAS, proponents of closing state run hospitals for adults with mental disabilities
14 suggest that patients would benefit from community-based services instead of institutions;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, it is important to study the incidence of violence among Georgia's adults with
17 mental disabilities to determine if community-based services are the safest treatment option
18 for both the patient and the community in which they are to live and work; and

19 WHEREAS, the consequences of closing adult mental health treatment facilities in Georgia
20 should be studied in relation to a patient's mental health needs, a community's desire for
21 safety and security, and the state's obligation to mental health patients and citizens before
22 further action is taken.

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
24 there is created the House Adult Mental Health and Disability Facilities Study Committee
25 to be composed of five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
26 two of whom shall be members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and
27 the House Committee on State Institutions and Property. The Speaker shall designate a
28 member of the committee as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all
29 meetings of the committee.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
31 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
32 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
33 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
34 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
35 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. In the event the committee makes
36 a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed legislation, such
37 report shall be made on or before December 1, 2010. The committee shall stand abolished
38 on December 1, 2010.